

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering this application.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-19 are pending in this application. Claims 1 and 11 are independent. The remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, from claims 1 and 11.

Drawings

The Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to indicate whether the drawings filed on December 3, 2001 are acceptable.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that the references cited in the Information Disclosure Statement filed on February 19, 2004 have been reviewed. However, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner indicate that the references cited in the Information Disclosure Statement filed on December 3, 2001 and the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement filed on September 12, 2003 have been reviewed by returning initialed copies of the corresponding PTO-1449 Forms.

Claim Amendments

Claim 1 and 11 have been amended to clarify the present invention. Support for these amendments may be found, for example, in paragraphs 22, 28, and 33 of the instant specification. Applicant asserts no new subject matter has been added by way of these amendments.

New Claim

Claim 38 has been added with this response. Support for this claim may be found in paragraph 22 of the instant specification. Applicant asserts no new subject matter has been added by way of this amendment.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,226,690 (“Banda”). To the extent that this rejection still applies to the amended claims, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

For anticipation under 35 U.S.C. § 102, the reference must teach every aspect of the invention either explicitly or impliedly. In rejecting claims 1 and 11, the Examiner asserts that Banda teaches a state manager interposed between the client and the server, the state manager having a capability to generate a list of a plurality of data attributes required to represent a state of an application in the distributed system and a capability to cache the plurality of data attributes so as to be locally accessible by the client. (See Office Action mailed March 18, 2005, pgs. 2-3). Applicant respectfully disagrees. Banda actually teaches a client requesting service from a server having particular *server* attributes. The *server* attributes of Banda are not in any way related to the state of any *application* as taught in the claims of the present invention. Rather, Banda teaches server attributes that only specify the type of server the client wishes to have access. This is further evident as the only example Banda uses in order to illustrate the use of the server attributes, is a client requesting printer functions. Specifically, when printer functions are needed, the client process uses an object class, which is a type of printer, to find the printer. (See, e.g., Banda col. 6, ll. 54-63 and col. 7, ll. 10-12). Thus, in contrast to the present invention as recited in claims 1 and 11, Banda teaches server attributes for locating a server.

Moreover, Banda does not teach caching the attributes to be locally accessible by the client as asserted by the Examiner. In fact, Banda teaches that the proxy object is used in order to continually communicate with the server. For example, once the printer is found, then the location of the printer is fetched and proxy object is created to allow the client to constantly obtain printer functions without needing to continually find the printer. (See, e.g., Banda col. 6, ll. 52 - col. 7, ll. 16). Thus, the attributes as taught by Banda are used only to locate a server in order to obtain functions; the attributes are not even intended to be cached.

In contrast to Banda, the present invention as recited in claims 1 and 11 teaches caching the data attributes required to represent a state of an application in the distributed system. The cached data attributes are then locally accessible by the client. Thus, continuous communication as taught in Banda is not necessary.

In view of the above, it is clear Banda fails to support the rejection of claims 1 and 11. Dependent claims 2-10 and 12-19 are allowable for at least the same reasons. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

New Claim


Amended claim 38 depends indirectly on claim 1 and is allowable over Banda for at least the same reasons. Further, Banda does not teach or suggest a state manager including means for prefetching data based on the learning of data attributes. Banda merely teaches a client specifying server attributes. Banda is silent with respect to prefetching data based on the learning of attributes. Accordingly, new claim 38 is allowable over Banda.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 16159/026001; P6937).

Dated: June 20, 2005

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